

Janazah & Wasiyyah

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By Muhammad S. Adly

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Verily, all praise is due to Allāh. We praise Him, we seek His assistance and His forgiveness, and we seek refuge in Almighty Allāh from the evil of our passions and the worst of our deeds. Indeed, whomsoever Allāh ﷻ guides, no one can mislead him, and whomsoever Allāh puts astray, no one can guide him. I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allāh alone, with no partner. And I testify that Muhammad ﷺ is His slave and messenger.

It is my pleasure to present this booklet to my Muslim brothers and sisters. The objective of this booklet is to enlighten the Muslims about part of the teachings of their religion, in relation to the subject of death and the preparation of the deceased. Another objective of this booklet is for Muslims to learn about their obligation to other Muslims. This booklet will enable them to fulfill these obligations to other Muslims when death comes to them. This booklet also serves as a reminder concerning death and the here after which is some thing that the Prophet (SAW) emphasized to be mentioned and remembered a lot, never-the-less I do not claim perfection in my work, please excuse my shortcomings.

I have only put in this collection what is authentic, I pray that Allāh ﷻ will help all of us purify our intentions and make them sincerely for His pleasure, to my benefit and as well as to your benefit, in this life and in the hereafter. Please bring to my attention any mistakes you may find in this work, so that they can be corrected in the next edition. If further clarification is needed on any of the topics introduced, feel free to contact me at: islamiccenterofcolumbia@yahoo.com. I beg Allāh's forgiveness and ask Him to conceal my shortcomings in this work.

Muhammad Sayed Adly,
Imām of Masjid Al-Muslimīn
Columbia, South Carolina, USA

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I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all my dear respected Brothers and Sisters who had contributed towards accomplishment of this task by any means. Also I would like to extend my appreciation to every one who will utilize this book; I would like to say to all of you

جزاكم الله خيرا

Jazakum allahu Khayran.

I welcome all questions, comments, or suggestions that might assist me in improving upon this project. Please forward all communication to:
islamiccenterofcolumbia@yahoo.com

Preparation of the Deceased and the Funeral Salah

The Muslim should prepare himself for death by increasing righteous deeds and staying away from what is haraam. He should always remember death. The Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) said, "Increase mentioning the one that destroys pleasures of life."

Just Before Death

The sick or dying person should hope and expect good on behalf of Allah (ﷻ). Regardless of how sick he may get, he should never wish for death. It is permissible for him to say, "O Allah, allow me to live as long as living is better for me, and cause me to die whenever death is better for me." He should assume that Allah (ﷻ) would pardon him for the sins that he has committed. Allah's Forgiveness and Mercy are boundless, encompassing everything. The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "Let none of you die except while assuming good on behalf of Allah." (Muslim)

It is also necessary to ensure that the dying person has left a will so that his property would be properly distributed.

For the one who visits the dying person, it is necessary to remind and help him to say the Shahadaa (i.e. there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah and Mohammad is the last messenger). Allah's Messenger said ﷺ, "Let those of you who are dying repeat after you, 'There is no God but Allah.'" (Reported by Muslim and Al-Arba'a). If the dying person is an unbeliever then one should invite him to Islam in hopes that he will accept it before he dies.

Signs of a Good End for the Believer

The Prophet (ﷺ) gave news of glad tidings for the dying person. This good news comes in the form of signs that the believer will have a good end. The following are the signs that have been related in authentic accounts.

- The saying of the shahadah as the deceased's last words.
- Having sweat upon the brows and forehead.
- Dying during the night or day of Jumu'ah.
- Dying on the battlefield.
- Dying from an illness in the stomach.
- Dying by drowning.
- Dying due to illness from a plague.
- Dying due to being crushed in a building or something similar to that.
- Dying as a result of childbirth or pregnancy.
- Dying in defense of Deen, self or property.
- Dying while standing guard for jihad.
- Dying as a result of fire.
- Dying while involved in good deeds.

Things to Do For the Deceased

When the Muslim dies, it is necessary for the one who is present with him to do the following:

1. **Shut his eyes:** The Prophet of Allah (ﷺ) shut the eyes of Abu Salamah (رضي الله عنه) and said, “Indeed, when the soul is taken, the sight will follow it thereafter.” (Muslim).



Figure #1

2. **Cover him with a cloth that will conceal all of his body:** Aisha (رضي الله عنها) stated that the Prophet (ﷺ) was covered with a cloth when he passed away. (see figure #1)

3. **Announce the death:** The Prophet (ﷺ) announced the death of Zayd, Ja'far and Abdullah bin Rawahah when they were martyred. However, the proclamation in a loud voice, in the streets, or at the gates of Masajid is prohibited.
4. **Hasten to prepare the dead person (i.e. prepare what is necessary for his funeral), then to make salah and bury him:** The Prophet (ﷺ) said, “Hasten to do the Janazah (i.e. the necessities of the funeral from washing the body of the dead person and preparing the Kafan etc.)”
5. **Bury the deceased in the town where he died:** On the day of Uhud, the Prophet (ﷺ) ordered the martyrs to be buried in the same place where they had been killed. In other words, they should not be transported except to one of the three sacred places: Makkah, Al Madinah or Jerusalem.

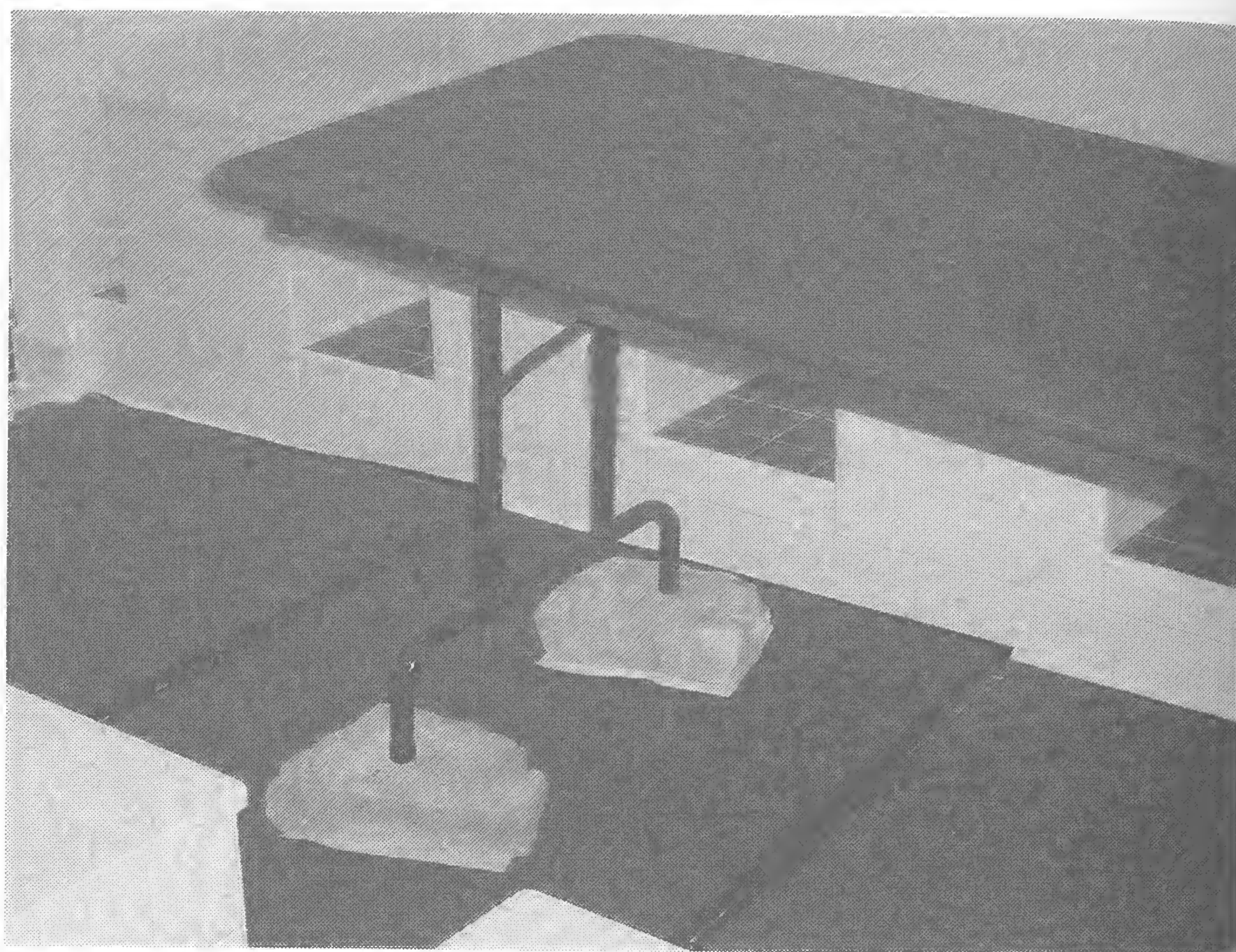
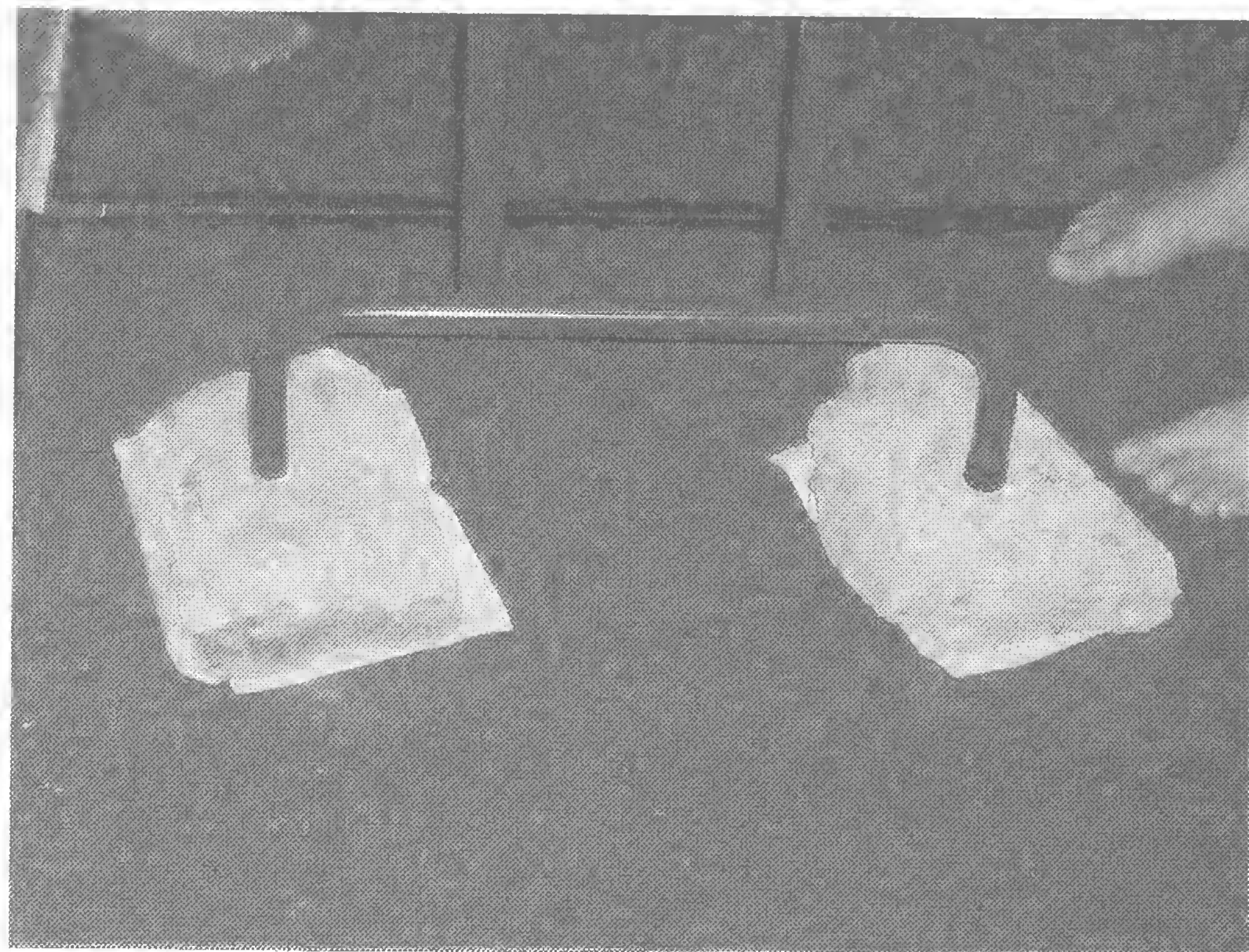


Figure #2

Elevation of the one side of the table is strongly recommended to help the sliding of the water as you see in the Figure #2.



Washing of the dead person:

- Washing the dead person and preparing him for burial, making salah on him and burying him is Fard Kefayah (i.e. if someone does them the others won't be held accountable for not performing them).
- The one who has the priority to wash the dead person is the one whom the deceased had recommended before his death. If no one has been delegated, then the person who is most knowledgeable of the procedure of washing the deceased, according to the sunnah, should be in charge of washing the body.
- Men are to wash the bodies of men, and women are to wash the bodies of women. However, the husband can perform the washing of his wife according to the saying of the Prophet (ﷺ) to his wife Aisha (رضي الله عنها) "What will affect you if you died before (me) and I washed you..." Also, the wife can wash her husband when he dies, because Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) instructed his wife to wash him.

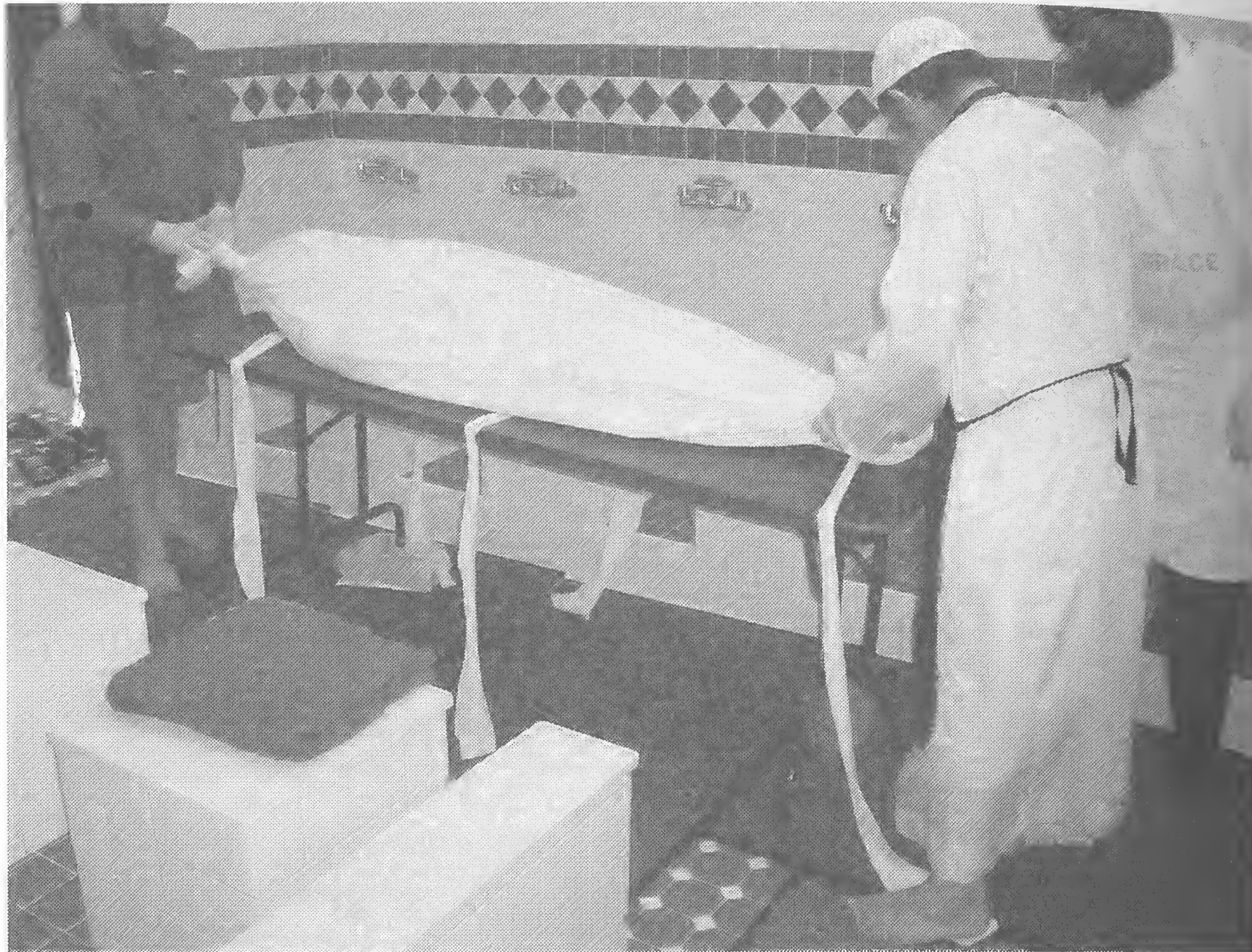


Figure #13

You may increase or decrease the number of ties, the main thing to insure is that the body is not exposed while is being transported and carried.

- Incase family members wish to see the face of the deceased is no harm (see figure 15).

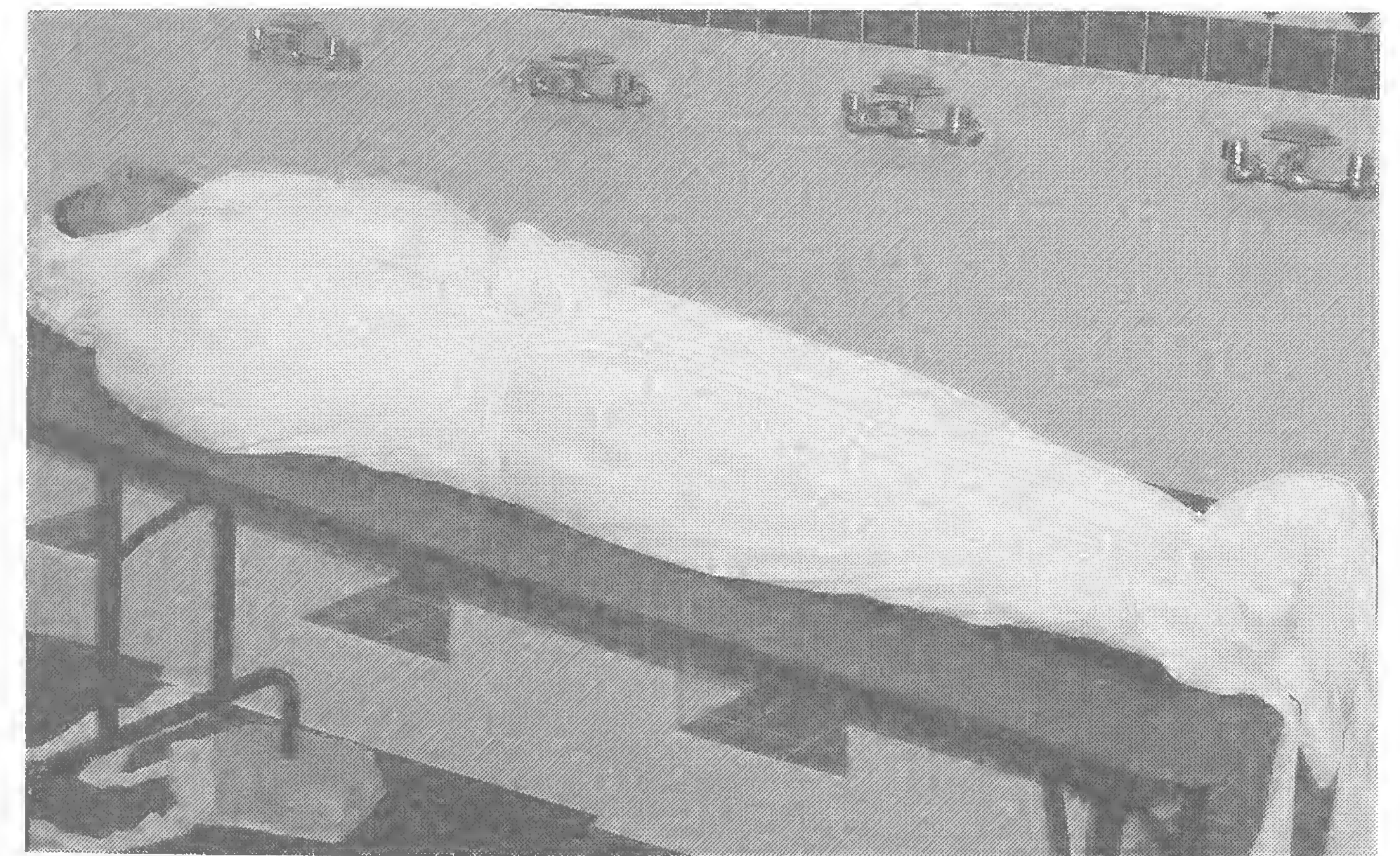


Figure #15



Figure #14



Figure #14



Figure #14

